



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY ARMOR CENTER AND FORT KNOX
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

ATZK-CF (600-85a)

12 July 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, All Units Reporting Directly to This Headquarters
Commanders, Fort Knox Partners in Excellence
Directors and Chiefs, Staff Offices/Departments, This Headquarters

SUBJECT: Thunderbolt Six Policy Memo No. 37-28 – Suicide Prevention

1. Reference: AR 600-63, 17 November 1987, Army Health Promotion
2. As commanders and leaders at Fort Knox, we are deeply concerned when a person's life is lost in any circumstance. This is exacerbated when the loss of life is due to suicide. Suicide prevention is the concern of every leader, commander, soldier, and Army civilian.
3. Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States. It is the second leading cause of death for active duty soldiers. Sixty-five soldiers are known to have committed suicide in 1999. For the second consecutive year it appears that the Army suicide rate is increasing.
4. Sometimes life's circumstances, financial problems, and troubled relationships exhaust an individual's emotional capacity, and depression may lead to feelings of helplessness. I challenge you, as leaders and managers, to erase the stigma attached to seeking mental health services. It is not a sign of weakness to get help. Our goal must be to help every individual recognize the warning signs in both themselves and others. Every soldier and civilian who needs help must get help.
5. I strongly encourage utilizing all of your training venues to disseminate suicide prevention information. Suicide prevention should be a primary topic during NCO Professional Development, Consideration of Others training, sergeants' time, and scheduled unit training. Furthermore, this training should start immediately. Copies of briefing slides are available on the Internet by accessing the office web sites of the Staff Chaplain and Armor Branch Safety Office.
6. I task each of you to become personally involved in our efforts to prevent suicide.

B. B. BELL
Major General, USA
Commanding

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DISTRIBUTION:

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